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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Barry R. MATTHEWS *et al.*  
Title: ANTIVIRAL LINEAR POLYMERS  
Parent Appln. No. 09/230,189  
Parent Filing Date: March 15, 1999  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓  
Please cancel claims 1-16, without prejudice or disclaimer.

✓  
Please add the following claims:

--17. An antiviral compound comprising a linear, non-carbohydrate polymer having a plurality of side chain groups, wherein at least one of said side chain groups has an anionic- or cationic-containing moiety bonded or linked thereto, wherein said anionic-containing moiety is selected from the group consisting of

(i) aryl or arylalkyl anionic moieties;

(ii) heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl anionic moieties; and

(iii) neuraminic or sialic acid-containing moieties which are modified by substitution in the 4-position thereof;

and said cationic-containing moiety is a quaternary nitrogen-containing moiety.